

Sermon Study Guide

Establishing the Resurrection - Part 2

Overview

There is only one thing that needs to be established and demonstrated to show that Christianity is true - the resurrection. "The general public is under the impression that Jesus' resurrection cannot be believed on the basis of evidence. However, while this perception is common among the general population, it isn't true. There is actually a wealth of historical evidence for the truth of Christianity, and many skeptics have become Christians by looking at this evidence." *THE EVIDENCE FOR JESUS' RESURRECTION, PART 1*: by Evan Minton

"Christianity, if false, is of no importance. But if true, it is of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important." C. S. Lewis

Scripture

1 Corinthians 15:3-8; Matthew 28:11-15; [Acts 9:1-9](#); Acts 12:1-2; Acts 14:19; Acts 16:22-24

Examination - The best way to use this section is to discuss with others in a Bible study

1. Faith and Reason - some estimates are that 75% of children brought up in the church, within a year or two of leaving the home are leaving the church because they do not believe the message of the church is true.
 - a. Reason is the process of logical thinking that is based on the Laws of logic. But these laws of logic cannot be proved by the scientific method; and you cannot prove logic with logic. These laws are pre-supposed to be true and they form the basis for making sense out of the things that we observe and use for conclusions. they are assumed to be true.
 - b. Faith and truth are not to be separated and are not subjective or cultural. Faith is not simply sincere belief; to believe in the wrong sincerely is to be sincerely wrong.
 - c. **Reason and logic help to differentiate the truth; faith is indispensable in following truth. People are talked out of Christianity too easily because they've never been told why Christianity is true. Ask someone why they believe Christianity is true and they say, "because I have faith." Faith in what? **Mark Twain once defined faith as "believing what you know ain't so.****
2. Our faith does not make the resurrection true or not true (or any of the bible). The resurrection is true.
 - a. The crucifixion and resurrection are evidences of the truth
 - i. An empty tomb

1. All four gospels talk about the empty tomb; If Jesus' body was still in the tomb why wouldn't the Jewish leaders have put it on display?; The Enemies Of Christianity presupposed the vacancy of the tomb when they said that the disciples stole the body. Matthew 28:11-15; The decree of Claudius
- ii. The post-mortem appearances of Jesus - 1 Corinthians 15:3-8
 1. The existence and use of a 'Creed' regarding the appearances of Jesus (several years after the event); this continued to be a claim of the disciples (eyewitnesses); the martyrdom of the disciples **for proclaiming this creed** - Acts 12:1-2; 14:19; 16:22-24; the appearance to Paul **while He was a church persecutor**;
- b. Faith causes us to follow the truth.

Matthew 28:11-15

While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. ¹²And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers ¹³and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' ¹⁴And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble."¹⁵So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

Acts 12:1-2

About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. ²He killed James the brother of John with the sword,

Acts 14:19

But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead.

Isaiah 1:18

"Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;

Galatians 3:11

Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith."

Practical Application - discuss these items with others, perhaps in a bible study together

1. Why do you believe Christianity is true?
2. Continue praying for the salvation of the person you asked if they believe Jesus did rise from the dead. Invite them to join you in worship on Easter. Don't try and convince them yet unless the holy Spirit CLEARLY directs you to. That will come later; pray for them to see the truth.